

vernment, and that little, darkly. We must wait till the consummation of all things, in order to form any consistent opinion; and then how amazing will the plan appear, when the whole shall be laid before us!

In the case of Joseph, it has pleased God to discover his own purpose, and the very remarkable steps, by which that purpose was effected. His aim, from the beginning, was to exalt Joseph; and this would have been easy for him in a thousand ways. But he chooses, for the display of his own glory, to make the very opposition of his enemies the means of accomplishing his will; and thus he proves, that "there is no wisdom nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord."

We are hereby also instructed, that matters of the highest importance both to ourselves and to all the world may take their rise from circumstances

which at first appear of the smallest moment. What a chain of events do we behold in this history, wonderfully connected together, and necessarily depending one upon another, and leading to an issue of the greatest magnitude! Had not Joseph dreamed; had he not imprudently told his dreams; had he not visited his brethren; had not Reuben and Judah given the advice they did; had not the Ishmaelites passed by at the very time, bought him, and carried him into Egypt; had he not been sold to Potiphar, tempted by his mistress, cast into prison; had not the prisoners and Pharaoh also dreamed, Joseph would not have attained to his very high exaltation. These preceding dispensations, at least, were the appointed means of raising him to the government of a very powerful nation, of preserving that whole country, and many others likewise, from perishing by famine; of supporting the family of Jacob in particular; and of thus continuing